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FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES

**Excerpt from the Draft *Developing a Draft Preferred Alternative*
Document - Stage 1 Implementation**

(First seven Years Following ROD and Certification)

Stage 1 is defined as the seven year period commencing with the final decisions on the Programmatic EIS/EIR. Agreement on Stage 1 actions is only one part of the decision for a preferred program alternative.

The following provides more detail on potential actions for Stage 1 water transfer element actions. The list of actions is intended as a starting point for discussions on potential Stage 1 implementation and will be frequently refined and updated with input from CALFED agencies and stakeholders. These actions will be more fully developed as parts of the preferred program alternative for the *Revised Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR* in late 1998 and for the *Final Programmatic EIS/EIR* in late 1999.

Each potential action in the following Stage 1 list includes an estimate (in parenthesis) of when the action may occur within Stage 1. For example, "(yr 1)" indicates the action is expected to occur in the first year following the final decisions on the EIS/EIR.

Water Transfer Framework

The water transfer framework is designed to facilitate the water transfer process while protecting water rights and legal users of water and addressing and avoiding or mitigating other third-party impacts and local groundwater or environmental impacts. This element will propose a policy framework for water transfer rules, baseline data collection, public disclosure, and analysis and monitoring of water transfers, both short- and long-term. The first stage implements the processes which will continue in subsequent stages.

1. Establish water transfer clearinghouse to ensure public participation, disclose information, and monitor actual transfer impacts (yr 1)
2. Continue clearinghouse functions to provide information on environmental, economic and water resource protections (yr 2-7); e.g., third- party impacts, groundwater resource protection, instream flow [1707] transfers, and environmental protection in source areas
3. Coordinate with SWRCB, DWR, and USBR to formulate policy, under their existing authorities, for required water transfers analyses (yr 1)
4. Refine technical, operational, and administrative rules that govern water transfer transactions for all uses (yr 1-4); e.g., area of origin/watershed priorities, rules/guidelines for environmental water transfers, transferable water and the "no injury rule", operations criteria and/or carriage water requirements, reservoir refill criteria, and streamlined permitting process
5. Refine disclosure process that provides information regarding potential access to state and federal water facilities for movement of water transfers (yr 2); e.g. forecast opportunities to transfer water in existing project facilities, priority of transferred water in new facilities, and wheeling and power costs
6. Resolve allocation of available transfer capacity (yr 1)
7. Develop rules for allocation of wheeling and power costs in state and Federal conveyance facilities in compliance with CALFED "beneficiary pays" principle (yr 1)

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